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THE TOPPER

Veterans' Health Care in Bowling Green

By David Angle

As a veteran, I am constantly surprised at the number of other vets I meet that are unaware of the veterans' health care available to them in Bowling Green. The VA provides a standard enhanced health benefits plan available to all enrolled veterans. The plan emphasizes preventive and primary care, and offers a full range of outpatient and inpatient services within the VA health care system.

The local VA health care facility in Bowling Green is Corpcare, located on Wilkinson Trace.

Corpcare is contracted by the VA to provide primary care services to veterans enrolled in the system. New applicants must make an appointment with a Primary Care facility such as Corpcare and the sched-

uled evaluation will take place as soon as one becomes available. Due to the number of veterans now enrolling in the system, this wait could be 12 to 18 months. Applicants with a service-connected disability or who are 50% service-connected or higher and need care for any condition will be provided with priority access—usually within 30 days of a desired scheduling date.



Bowling Green's VA Primary Care facility, Corpcare, 1110 Wilkinson Trace.

All veterans are potentially eligible:

- Benefits are based solely on active military service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard (or Merchant Marines during WWII), and discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.
- Reservists and National Guard members who were called to active duty by a Federal Executive Order may qualify for VA health care benefits. Returning service members who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations have special eligibility for two years following discharge from active duty.
- Health care eligibility is not just for those who served in combat.
- Veterans' health care is not just for service-connected injuries or medical conditions.
- Veterans' health care facilities are not just for men only. VA offers full-service health care to women veterans.

VA's medical benefits package provides the following health care services to all enrolled veterans:

(Continued on page 2)

VETERANS UPWARD BOUND ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET



Guest speaker Marisa Duarte

Veterans Upward Bound held their 15th annual awards banquet on May 4th at the Holiday Inn University Plaza Hotel. The evening's

guest speaker was Marisa Duarte, an alumna of both VUB and WKU. Marisa is an Exceptional Education teacher at Bowling Green High School and will earn her Masters of Science in Kentucky Technology this month. Also speaking to the audience during the welcoming announcements were Dr. David Coffey, the director of Educa-



Dr. Richard Miller

tional Enhancement Programs and Dr. Richard Miller, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Western Kentucky University. Veterans Upward Bound

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THE TOPPER is published three times yearly by the Veterans Upward Bound Project at Western Kentucky University. VUB is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education (Fiscal Year 06-07: \$270,759). The opinions expressed within this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of either the U.S. Department of Education or Western Kentucky University, and no official endorsement should be inferred.

(Veterans' Health Care: Continued from page 1)

Preventive Care Services

- Immunizations
- Physical Examinations
- Health Care Assessments
- Screening Tests
- Health Education Programs

Outpatient Diagnostic and Treatment

- Emergency Outpatient Care in VA facilities
- Medical
- Surgical
- Chiropractic Care
- Mental Health
- Bereavement Counseling
- Substance Abuse

Inpatient Diagnostic and Treatment

- Emergency Inpatient Care in VA facilities
- Medical
- Surgical
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse

Medications and Supplies

- Prescription Medications

- Over-the-Counter Medications
- Medical and Surgical Supplies

Payment for all health care services is determined by a means test based on your yearly income threshold. The means test is provided yearly to all participants in the VA health care system. Quite often, those veterans with low income, single or with dependents, do receive all services for free. The exception is a minimal co-pay on prescription medications.

The VA will not pay for medications written by a non-VA physician. Only veterans with special eligibility, such as veterans receiving *Aid and Attendance* or *Housebound* benefits, or those approved by a VA health care facility for Fee Basis are eligible to receive medications at VA expense. For questions about health care eligibility, please visit the VA inquiry web-

site:

www.va.gov/healtheligibility

With today's soaring health costs, it is comforting to know that veterans have an alternate source for receiving quality health care. Any services that the Primary Care facility in Bowling Green can not provide is accomplished by a referral to the VA campus in Nashville at Vanderbilt University.

Don't procrastinate in making an application to the VA health care system due to the long waiting period. The sooner you can become a participant the sooner you can benefit from health care services that you have rightfully earned as a veteran in service to your country.

(VUB Annual Awards Banquet: continued from page 1)



Mrs. Joe Wright and Major James Wright, USMC

was pleased to announce the presentation of a new scholarship this year sponsored by MOAA (Military Officers Association of America). The scholarship was in honor of the late Lieutenant Commander Joe Wright, USN retired. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Mrs. Joe Wright and son, Major James Wright, USMC. The recipient of the \$700 MOAA scholarship was Robert Boyden, an officer with the Western

Kentucky University police force. Other scholarship recipients were Jennifer Souffrain, winner of the local Veterans Upward Bound Scholarship (\$300), and Race Stork, winner of a national NA-VUBPP scholarships (\$500).



Oscar Ortiz

Award winner of the year for the Alumni of the Year was Oscar Ortiz. Oscar rejoined the Army National Guard in 2006 and was recalled for duty

in Iraq. With just over one year's classes left before graduation, Oscar has decided to finish his degree online while serving in Iraq.



Rickie Romero and wife Debra

This year's winner of the *Dare to Dream* award went to Rickie Romero. Rickie is starting his postsecondary education this fall at Austin Peay State University. He will be seeking a degree in Health Care Administration.

Student of the Year was awarded to Dominique Riley. Dominique is an Air Force veteran who joined VUB in April of 2006. Although faced with an awkward schedule with his job at the Medical



The Director's Desk



Dominique Riley

Center, he was still very regular in his attendance.

Dominique enrolled at the Community College this fall, majoring in Information Systems. As part of the process of gaining attendance to the Community College, he scored one of the highest scores a VUB student has made on the Accuplacer test.

Outstanding Effort certificates were awarded to Ranada McClurg, Steve Jewell, Grant Maher, David Wakefield, Tim Rowe, and Alan Hartley.

Associate's Degree Completer certificates were awarded to Ward Moran and Carlton Potter for earning an associate's degree after completing the Veterans Upward Bound Program. *Baccalaureate Degree Completer* certificates were awarded to Michael Miciotto and Kevin Smith for earning a bachelor's degree after completing the Veterans Upward Bound Program.

The following is a list of our students that have competed the Veterans Upward Bound Program and have enrolled in a postsecondary program:

- Charles Atkinson
- Tim Barlow
- Juanita Birge
- Vanessa Centeno
- Roger Cropper
- Lawrence Dvorak
- Aaron Early
- Joey Elms
- Carlos Espino



Randy Wilson, Director

Recently VUB staff members have been trying to learn more about Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome and its symptoms. We urge everyone reading this to do the same thing.

You may be a veteran who has a problem and may find the term PTSD unacceptable to yourself, but if there is a problem, please TALK TO SOMEBODY. Go to a counselor, clergy, VUB staff, friend or significant other, but tell someone. Healing can begin when you start trying to open up and let the stress out in positive ways. Bottling up your agony can cause stress, illness, confusion, resentment by others, and perhaps family dysfunction. The people who cared and loved you before you went to battle will still care and love you after battle,

no matter what you had to do while in the combat area. Don't shut them out.

If you are the family or friend of a veteran, understand that if he or she is distant or unhappy, angry or on edge, or may act like they feel the need to live on the edge, they need support and understanding. Do not give up on them if they express rancor. Keep showing love and support and never give up.

A good book that everyone should read is **DOWN RANGE: To Iraq and Back** by Bridget C. Cantrell, Ph.D., a member of the American Psychological Association and Association of Traumatic Stress Specialists, and Chuck Dean, a veteran of the Vietnam War. The book is inexpensive, short, and is an easy read.

In war, there are no unwounded soldiers.

— Jose Narosky

Notes and News



The Veterans History Project at the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress was created on October 27, 2000, by Congress to collect and preserve recorded memories of

America's wartime veterans and civilian volunteers, support staff, and war industry workers. The Project and its many partners across the country, including individual citizens, are working to collect audio and video recorded oral histories, memoirs, letters, diaries, photographs, and other personal documents from those who served in World War I, World War II, and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf wars. Join us in preserving America's legacy through firsthand accounts of service. For information about the Project, how to submit a story, or to find out how you can interview a veteran or civilian in your family or community, please visit www.loc.gov/vets or call their message line at 1-888-371-5848.

- Bryce Gooch
- Calvin Greene
- Steve Jewell
- Bryan Jones
- Joanna Jones
- Jason McElroy
- Junior Mondie
- Sharon Mondie

- Joe Phill
- Lucas Reynolds
- Dominique Riley
- Stephen Scarborough
- Shawn Slaton
- Larry Smith
- Daryl Wingo



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University Archivist
Kentucky Building



Important Numbers and Dates

Department of Employment Services, Bowling Green
(270) 746-7425

Stephanie Gabbard, VA Voc-Rehab, B.G. Office
(270) 846-2092

VA Regional Office, Louisville
(800) 827-1000

VA Regional Office, Nashville, TN
(615) 695-6372

VA Medical Center, Louisville
(502) 895-3401

VA Medical Center, Nashville, TN
(615) 327-4751

Kentucky Center for Veterans Affairs, Louisville
(502) 595-4447

Military Records Branch, Frankfort
(502) 564-4883

AMVETS, Louisville
(502) 582-5594

Disabled American Veterans, Louisville
(800) 333-1720

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bowling Green
(270) 781-1872

American Legion, Bowling Green
(270) 781-3574

July 2 - July 6 No Classes

July 4 Independence Day - VUB Offices Closed

Aug 2 VUB Summer Classes End

Aug 10* Registration Postmark Deadline for
Sept 15 ACT Test Date

Sept 3 Labor Day - VUB Offices Closed

Sept 4 VUB Fall Classes Begin

Sept 15* ACT Test Date

Sept 21* Registration Postmark Deadline for
Oct 27 ACT Test Date

OCT 27* ACT Test Date

Nov 12 Veterans Day

*Please call early for information on test dates. VUB may pay testing fees, but to do so we must have your application at least six weeks prior to the registration postmark deadline.